

In Minnesota, an Italian lesson by sifting through the news on the site of the GdB.

Kevin Milani's grandparents had immigrated to the US from our country, where he comes back whenever he can.

Giornale di Brescia? Yes, I can! It is the exclamation with which, for a couple of months, begin the days of our distant ... reader. From the locality of Hibbing, in the United States, Kevin Milani has chosen our website to practice Italian, a language that has an irresistible appeal for him.

Roots. The link with our country has distant roots: his grandparents had emigrated from Italy to America in the first decades of the last century. Furthermore, the destination of Kevin's travels, outside the United States, has always been Italy. The last time, this past April, he also visited Brescia, after winning the annual Week in Italy award that the Serafino Zani Observatory has been giving away for American teachers since 1995, teaching lessons in English for our students.

Kevin is the first of all the award-winners to have expressed a strong interest in our language. So he trains to pronounce Italian taking advantage of the web resources and reading an article in our daily newspaper every day. Among the many available, he prefers those on the beauties and curiosities of tourist and cultural interest of our territory, from the stay in Sirmione of the English premier Theresa May to the spectacular Limone cycle path overhanging the lake, from the rock carvings of Camune, the subject of an international conference, to the electric bikes that are available to the municipalities of Sebini this summer.

Aloud. Every day Kevin reads aloud the title selected on the Giornale di Brescia online site, and compares his pronunciation with the correct one he receives from Italy via Whatsapp. To understand the meaning of the words he uses Google translate. Kevin tries to enrich the daily conversation with his Italian interlocutor looking for connections with America. So the restoration of the great organ of the church of Paderno, at a cost of 32 thousand euro, reminded him of the organ in his school in Hibbing, which cost 26,000 dollars in 1920: between the two organs there are only 10 years of difference. The flowering of the water lilies of the Sovenigo ponds, in the Garda hinterland, has been compared with the similar blooming that

in this period of the year characterizes a small lake, Carey Lake in Minnesota, where he lives. In many cases it is difficult to cope with the millennial Italian history. The news of the restoration of our Vittoria Alata does not find significant links over the ocean, especially in a town like Hibbing whose foundation dates back only to the beginning of the last century.

Easier to imagine links with Italian immigration in those years, the theme of one of the lessons that Kevin proposed to the Brescian students during his stay in April last year. I wonder if his next conference in Italy will be richer in words in our language, thanks to the constant consultation of our newspaper.

Last April he was in Brescia thanks to the trips offered to American teachers by the Serafino Zani observatory

Photo: A ... lesson. Kevin Milani in front of the computer tuned to the GdB